

Lincoln School Parents' Association Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes from the LSPA meeting held on January 14, 2009 were distributed and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's January report was reviewed and approved. The opening balance on 1/1/09 was \$44,249.40 and the closing balance on 1/31/09 was \$46,369.98. One expense this month was a restricted gift for \$575.00 for light speed technology. The Direct Appeal has raised a total of \$25,875.00 to date, with 65% of Lincoln families contributing. This amount exceeds the \$25,000.00 goal for the school year. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report for further detail about revenue and expenses.

Principal's Report:

Kate Scanlon informed parents that the Student Council met last week and a Summer Enrichment Program is being offered to Winchester students this summer. There will be special interest courses offered throughout the summer, such as a drumming course and a Legos course. Courses are taught by Winchester teachers and over 60 course proposals were submitted. A brochure describing the program and course offerings will be distributed to parents and students in the near future.

The Extended Year Program for students with educational plans at all Winchester elementary schools will be held at Lincoln School this summer. The program will use approximately 8 to 12 classrooms at the school.

Kate and the School Council are concerned about traffic and safety around Lincoln School. Their goals include increasing police presence to improve traffic, placing an additional crossing guard at Main Street and Washington Street, and improving snow removal around the school grounds.

Enrollment at Lincoln School has increased. Eight new students have enrolled at Lincoln this school year and 2 more students are expected to enroll in the near future.

A Lincoln School staff meeting was held yesterday to review the "All School Writes".

Kindergarten registration is starting for next year. Parents with children entering kindergarten in 2009 are encouraged to complete the paperwork so the school can make plans for enrollment.

Kate described a new pilot program entitled "Study Island". It is a computer program for 3rd and 4th graders and students seem to enjoy using it. Lincoln staff is investigating the merits of the program and is determining whether the program provides a good learning experience for students. If found useful, the program may be offered to parents for home use.

Special Presentations:

Jeri Katz, Lincoln School Reading Specialist, gave an informative presentation on the reading curriculum at Lincoln School. She described the curriculum components across elementary school grade levels. There is an "A to Z" book system in place that rates books on a continuum of skill level. "A" books are picture books where the text matches the pictures. "B" books have a little more text and pictures continue to match the words. "A to I" books are usually used in 1st grade and "I to M" books are used in 2nd grade. Level "O" is the beginning of 4th grade and levels "W to Z" are expected by the end of 5th grade. The goal throughout the process is to have students become automatic and fluent readers and not labor over each word. Kindergartners are screened in January to make sure they have the concept of print and they know their letters. In 1st grade, students are screened in January to assess their grasp of phonemic awareness and their knowledge of high frequency words. First graders having difficulty acquiring these skills will receive additional help with the reading specialist. Second graders are screened in January and June and 3rd through 5th

graders are screened at the beginning of each school year. Teachers determine each student's level of reading at the beginning of each school year. For further information about assigned reading levels for various books parents can Google "Leveled Book List" or go to www.bookwizard.scholastic.com. For further information about Jeri Katz's presentation, please refer to her handout located in the LSPA notebook in the main lobby.

Josh Dobbelaar made a special presentation about the program entitled, "Cool Winchester" through Sustainable Winchester. The program is based on the book Low Carbon Diet that describes the need to reduce carbon admissions, particularly in the United States. The goal in Winchester is to have 85% of houses assessed for carbon admissions and to have 25% carbon reduction in each household. Thirteen communities in Massachusetts are participating in the program. Please contact www.SustainableWinchester.org for further information.

Katherine Waters-Clark described the 5th grade Polar Project. There are three parts to the project: 1) Coins for Cubs; 2) Bottles for Bears, and 3) Eco-Thon. The Coins for Cubs part of the project has 20 containers located in Winchester businesses and the goal is to raise \$1,000 for the project.

Co-Presidents Update:

The school committee wants to set the calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. Labor Day is late this year and falls on September 7th. A one-question survey is being conducted to determine parents' opinion on whether school should begin before or after Labor Day.

Committee Updates:

Technology: The committee is developing a LSPA website. The goal is to have the website completed by the end of the school year.

5th Grade Committee: The 5th grade skating party will be held on Wednesday, February 25th at 11:30 am. The Pancake Breakfast was quite successful this year and served pancakes to approximately 1,500 people.

General Announcements:

The next LSPA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18th at 8:30 am. All Lincoln school parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Pulsifer.